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REMARKS

In the Office action of Sep. 22, 2005, Paper No. 20050919, claims 1-20 are pending of which claims 9,10,12,14,17 and 18 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5, 7, 16 and 19 are rejected, and claims 6, 8, 11, 13, 15 and 20 are objected to. In particular, claims 5-8, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19 and 20 are objected to because of informalities in independent claims 5 and 19. Claims 1-5, 7, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Mabie (US 3,877,713 A). Claims 6, 8, 11, 13, 15 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. A phone conversation was had with Examiner Restifo on December 19, 2005 to clarify the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 16 and 19 as being anticipated by Mabie. The detailed portion of the Office action incorrectly identified claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 16.

By this amendment, claims 5 and 19 are being amended as suggested by the Examiner to clear up the noted informalities. Accordingly, applicant requests that the objection to claims 5-8, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19 and 20 be withdrawn.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 16 and 19 under 35USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Mabie. The Examiner relies on Fig. 13 of Mabie as disclosing a ski keel comprising a side surface with first and second lateral extensions defining a recessed portion and a top surface that mates with a ski keel. Applicant submits that a closer look at Mabie is required to determine what Mabie actually discloses.

Mabie discloses in the brief description of the drawing in column 2 and in the detailed description in column 3, lines 21-32, that figs. 12-14 depict respective blade-seating members 60, 70, and 80 for holding a blade member 14 in place. In figs. 1-5, the blade member 14 is seated in a groove 16 in an elongated one piece, blade seating member 12 (col. 3, lines 32-34). Groove 16 is essentially the same as applicant's recess 50 in bottom surface 34 of keel bar 10, 19. Blade member 14 of Mabie is the same as or very similar to what the applicant has identified as "insert 35" of his

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invention that is positioned in the recess in the bottom surface of keel bar 10,19. Thus, blade member 14 of Mabie and insert 35 of applicants invention have been clearly identified as separate parts or components that are attached, affixed or held to the blade seating member of Mabie or the keel bar of applicant's invention, respectively. In claim 16, the insert is separately identified as being affixed to the bottom surface of the keel bar.

Accordingly, one must look to the surfaces of the one piece, blade seating member 12 of Figs. 1-5 or, as suggested by the Examiner, the corresponding blade-seating member 70 of Fig. 13 of Mabie to determine whether it anticipates the keel bar of applicants invention. Turning Fig. 13 upside down to obtain the proper orientation, bolt 13 extends from the top down into blade-seating member 70. Blade seating member 70 is depicted as having a short vertical lateral surface from which a flat horizontal surface extends perpendicularly approximately halfway into the member. Continuing down from the horizontal surface is another vertical surface, which leads down to a bottom edge of the blade-seating member that is held in position above the bottom edge of blade member 14.

In view thereof, blade-seating member 70 of Mabie is simply an L-shaped member with a beveled edge at the bottom to which a blade member 14 is held in place with a fastener against the vertical surface of the seating member. Mabie does not identically disclose a recessed surface portion in a side surface of the bar that is disposed between and recessed in from each of first and second lateral extensions as required in applicant's claim 1. Mabie also does not identically disclose a side surface with a recessed surface portion and a side surface portion below and extending outwardly in a first lateral direction from the recessed surface portion to a first lateral extension as required in applicant's claims 5 or 19. Thus, applicant submits that Mabie does not anticipate applicant's independent claim 1 and independent claims 5 and 19, as amended herein, or any claims depending thereon, and it is requested that the

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rejection of claims 5 and 19, as amended herein, and claims 1-4, 7 and 16 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Mabie, be withdrawn.

It is further requested that withdrawn claims 9, 10, 12, 14, 17 and 18 be examined and passed to issue.


The reexamination and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested, and it is further requested that the application be passed to issue.

Although the foregoing discussion is believed to be dispositive of the issues in this case, applicants' attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner to further discuss any unresolved issues remaining after the Examiner's consideration of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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